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Patent  
Customer No.: 006980  
Docket No.: MUELL40**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of	)	Confirmation No.: 8376
	)	
Barron	)	Group Art Unit: 3679
	)	
Serial No.: 10/815,275	)	Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M.
	)	
Filed: 1 April 2004	)	
	)	
For: PIPE COUPLING DEVICE	)	

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to  
the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile to  
703-872-9306 on April 12, 2005.

By: 

Jane L. Nieland

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Atlanta, GA 30308-2216  
12 April 2005

Sir:

The *Office Action* from Examiner Aaron M. Dunwoody of Art Unit 3679, dated 12 January 2005, has been received and carefully reviewed. In response thereto, Applicant respectfully submits the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

**An Application Data Sheet** is submitted with this *Response*.